

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 210635

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

### 1. SYRIA: NEW PRIME MINISTER'S THOUGHTS ON LEBANON

SYRIAN PRIME MINISTER KHULAYFAWI, IN AN AUGUST 24 TALK WITH AMBASSADOR MURPHY, CONFIRMED THAT SYRIA WAS COMMITTED IN LEBANON AND WOULD NOT WITHDRAW UNTIL IT HAD ACHIEVED SOME TANGIBLE ADVANCE TOWARDS PEACE. HE ALSO NOTED THAT:

--THE US COULD HAVE PLAYED A MORE VIGOROUS ROLE.

--SYRIAN TROOPS WERE MAINTAINING CALM IN THEIR OCCUPIED AREAS AND EXPERIENCING NO UNUSUAL FRICTIONS WITH THE LOCAL POPULATION.

--THE NEW LEBANESE ARMY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ASSUME  
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SECURITY RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ONE OR TWO YEARS.

--HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT SARKIS WOULD BECOME PRESIDENT  
ON SEPTEMBER 23.

--THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN ACHIEVING A SETTLEMENT  
IN LEBANON WAS AN EGYPTIAN-SYRIAN RAPPROCHEMENT.

AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: I WAS STRUCK BY KHULAYFAWI'S EMPHA-  
SIS ON THE NEED FOR A SYRIAN-EGYPTIAN RAPPROCHEMENT WHILE  
MENTIONING THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM ONLY ONCE. HE PROJECTS  
ALL OF THE VITALITY AND FIRMNESS POPULARLY ATTRIBUTED TO  
HIM, SPEAKING QUICKLY, DECISIVELY AND WITHOUT CIRCUMLOCU-  
TION. (CONFIDENTIAL) DAMASCUS 5621, 8/24.)

## 2. ISRAELI-ARAB RELATIONS

### A. OPEN FENCE WITH LEBANON

IN THE VIEW OF EMBASSY TEL AVIV, ISRAEL'S "OPEN FENCE"  
POLICY HAS GROWN INTO A WELL-COORDINATED EFFORT TO FORGE  
MORE PERMANENT TIES WITH SOUTHERN LEBANON. THE NEW POLICY  
HAS PRODUCED:

--THE TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT OF OVER 200 LEBANESE FARM-  
WORKERS;

--INCREASING IMPORTS OF FARM PRODUCE FROM LEBANON;  
AND

--THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME 200 LEBANESE STUDENTS RE-  
SUMING THEIR STUDIES AT ISRAELI UNIVERSITIES.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE ISRAELIS ARE AWARE OF THE VULNERABIL-  
ITY OF THE OPEN FENCE PROGRAM TO TERRORISTS, AND THEY ARE  
TAKING EXTENSIVE SECURITY PRECAUTIONS AT THE BORDER CROSS-  
INGS.

### B. THE DRUZE AT THE GATE

THE ISRAELI CABINET ANNOUNCED AUGUST 22 SYRIA'S AGREEMENT  
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TO THE ESTABLISHMENT IN THE GOLAN HEIGHTS OF A MEETING  
PLACE FOR DIVIDED DRUZE FAMILIES. PRESIDENT ASAD'S POLIT-  
ICAL ADVISOR DAOUDI TOLD AMBASSADOR MURPHY THAT HE KNEW  
NOTHING ABOUT THE ANNOUNCEMENT AND DOUBTED THERE WAS ANY  
BASIS IN FACT TO THE REPORT.

EMBASSY DAMASCUS COMMENT: DAOUDI'S QUICK REACTION SIGNI-  
FIES EITHER THAT HE WAS NOT INFORMED ABOUT THESE ARRANGE-

MENTS OR THAT ISRAELI PUBLICITY MAY BE HAVING A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON SYRIAN WILLINGNESS TO PROCEED. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) TEL AVIV 5791 AND 5790, 8/24 AND 8/23 AND (CONFIDENTIAL) DAMASCUS 5612, 8/24.)

3. PORTUGAL READY TO DISCUSS AZORES BASE NEGOTIATIONS

PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR TO THE US THEMIDO TOLD AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI AUGUST 20 THAT, UPON HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON, THE GOP WILL RESUME THE DIALOGUE ON AZORES BASE NEGOTIATIONS. HE GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THIS WILL NOT BE A FULL-SCALE EFFORT, BUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT, UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE AZOREANS, FEELS IT NECESSARY TO SHOW SOME MOTION. (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 5762, 8/24.)

4. INDO-SOVIET RELATIONS STUMBLE ON RUBLE/RUPEE ROCK?

INDIAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS JOINT SECRETARY PURUSHOTTAM, IN AN AUGUST 23 DINNER CONVERSATION WITH POLITICAL COUNSELOR KREISBERG, EXPRESSED A PESSIMISTIC VIEW FOR FUTURE INDO-SOVIET RELATIONS. THE SOVIET UNION IS DEMANDING A REVISION OF THE RUPEE/RUBLE EXCHANGE RATE USED FOR PAYMENT OF PAST SOVIET LOANS. ACCORDING TO PURUSHOTTAM, THE GOI CANNOT ACCEPT THE SOVIET DEMAND, AND IF THE SOVIETS FORCE THE ISSUE, IT COULD LEAD TO A MAJOR CHANGE IN INDO-SOVIET POLITICAL RELATIONS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME PURUSHOTTAM HAS EXPRESSED THESE CONCERNS. OUR OWN VIEW IS THAT INDO-SOVIET RELATIONS HAVE BEEN GRADUALLY COOLING FOR SOME TIME, BUT WILL CONTINUE TO FUNCTION FAIRLY ACTIVELY AND CERTAINLY VISIBLY. (CONFIDENTIAL) NEW DELHI 12427, 8/24.)

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5. THE BRAZILIAN-AFRICAN COFFEE CONNECTION

EMBASSY BRASILIA REPORTS THAT THE GOB DECIDED TO BUY AFRICAN COFFEE TO HELP COUNTERACT THE TREND IN DECLINING PRICES WHICH BRAZIL'S LARGE JUNE EXPORTS, ALONG WITH MARKET MANIPULATION BY SPECULATORS, MAY HAVE HELPED CREATE. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL JORTO DAUSTER STATED THAT THE GOB IS ALSO CONSIDERING LIMITING EXPORTS AND HOPED THAT US-BRAZILIAN RELATIONS WOULD NOT SUFFER BECAUSE OF BRAZILIAN COFFEE PURCHASES.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS ON THIS MATTER TO AMBASSADOR PINHEIRO IN WASHINGTON. (CONFIDENTIAL) BRASILIA 7385, 8/23.) KISSINGER

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